

in the peace that followed, continues to inspire us today. Their generation and our country did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, the Greatest Generation defended and then rebuilt our nation to make it even stronger. Their patriotism, service, and sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our nation and the American people. Their legacy endures today.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War to our nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161—H.R. 258; 162—H.R. 1073; and 163—Approving the Journal, I was delayed by weather and my flight arrived late. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSPARENCY FOR LETHAL CONTROL ACT (TLC)

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC), legislation requiring the United States Department of Agriculture to publish clear and accessible information on animals killed through the Wildlife Services program of the Animal Health and Inspection Service.

The Wildlife Services program is responsible for intervening in situations when an animal is considered a threat or serious nuisance to humans. In some cases, animals are killed to fulfill this mission.

Efforts to gather adequate information regarding Wildlife Services operations have been difficult. The USDA has not made detailed data available to the public relating to where, why, how, and which animals have been killed. This lack of transparency and public reporting makes oversight impossible. The USDA could be acting inappropriately or recklessly and without this data, we can't know. That is why I am introducing legislation to require the USDA to publish kill data online by state, county (or other similar political subdivision), and municipality.

The killing of animals should not be a routine or reflexive government response. It should only be undertaken, if at all, after careful deliberation and under strict supervision. For that reason, the public and Congress need to have the opportunity for vigorous oversight to ensure that the USDA is acting appropriately and considering all cheaper and more humane alternatives.

Congress must improve oversight of the Wildlife Services program and ensure that the USDA is using tax dollars efficiently and appropriately. I urge passage of the Transparency for Lethal Control Act (TLC).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House yesterday, Monday, May 20, 2013. Because of this absence, I missed three votes on the House floor and would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance. The votes were:

Rollcall No. 161, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 258, the Stolen Valor Act. I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 162, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1073, the Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013. I would have voted “yea.”

Rollcall No. 163, on Approval of the Journal. I would have voted “yea.”

BRANDON PULLIG

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Brandon Pullig is a senior at Deer Park High School in Harris County, Texas. His essay topic is:

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ROLE SHOULD GOVERNMENT PLAY IN OUR LIVES?

Ever since the times of the philosopher John Locke to Revolutionary heroes such as Patrick Henry and Thomas Paine to the current President Barack Obama, people have had many different beliefs on how government should play a role in our lives. While there have been differing views since the start, there has been one thing in common; the explicit disagreement on the role of which government should follow. Yes, everyone believes their opinion is correct because that is the definition of a belief. However, I write today not to share why my beliefs are correct nor to express how the U.S. Government should be leading the nation, but to tell my Congress, the most powerful body of our government, what not to do.

Now, I digress momentarily to inform you that I am not a writer. I am not a literary mastermind who can reach into thin air, pick out the perfect sentence, and transfer it

onto paper for all to read. No; I am but a worried 17 year-old, frightened for the future of our country. Thus being said, I apologize for my lack of professionalism and formality. When asked to write this, I saw it as an opportunity to directly communicate with Congress and not as an assignment to write about my feelings whilst hiding behind fancy words causing a lack of personality. Ergo, I plead with you to listen to what I have to say and to take it to heart.

As a young man on the verge of becoming part of the “real world,” leaving high school behind, I find it crucial that I involve myself into the world of government, trying to find what makes it tick. By doing so, I have found that our government is fantastic. The system our founding fathers established is the only reason we, as a nation, have survived the past 236 years. We have evolved the governmental process commendably as well. These facts do not, unfortunately, make up for the horrendous damage politics have caused. The concept of politics has torn apart our government. The lack of cooperation between the two major parties in the last decade and a half has been detrimental to the well being of our nation. Of course our government should tax, regulate trade, deal with foreign nations, create laws to protect the rights of the people, etc. Yet, we have fixated our beliefs so heavily on the ideals of one party or the other and I, as a concerned citizen, am tired of the gridlock that has been hopefully unintentionally created. I urge you to remember the prosperous years in which our nation's leaders, Congress, set aside their party and worked for the better good of all people. This may be hard to do because our minds have been corrupted into thinking black and white, but remember the generation—my generation—that must live with the mistakes made by the Republican and Democratic leaders who were too ignorant to look past their parties' beliefs and to accept what will benefit all. I write to defend my generation and for you to remember the true role of our government, which is to “establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed rollcall vote No. 157 regarding the Hurt Amendment No. 2 to the “SEC Regulatory Accountability Act” (H.R. 1062). Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 161, 162, 163, had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”